



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

AHRC Meeting Minutes 3/19/2014

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Jefferson Cutter House-Lower Level Conference Room

8:00 p.m.

Christine Carney, Chair

Members Present: Sheri Baron, Marissa Briggett, Christine Carney (Chair,) Douglass Davidoff, Stacy Davison, Ghanda DiFiglia, Mel Goldsipe, Sharon Grossman, Gary Horowitz, Jorge Loayza, Nancy Rhoads and Robin Varghese (Vice-Chair)

Members Absent: Nick Minton

Others Present: Kelly Bruneau (Admin,) and Anna Watson (Citizen)

C. Carney called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM.

1. Citizen's Open Forum:

A. Watson is an Arlington resident, a member of the Building Respect Task Force at the Ottoson Middle School and knowledgeable about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) community. She emphasized the importance of creating a central place in town to post LGBTQ events and information and the need to have an identified town official to take LGBTQ complaints. R. Varghese suggested using Robbins Library as a central location for posting LGBTQ information and using the Commission for complaints. D. Davidoff made a motion to create a subcommittee focusing on the LGBTQ community. M. Goldsipe seconded the motion. A brief discussion ensued regarding the roles of other town groups in LGBTQ issues. Following the discussion, all were in favor of the motion and the motion carried. A. Watson agreed to be the community liaison for the LGBTQ subcommittee. K. Bruneau will research and reach out to the Belmont town Gay Straight Alliance and the Cambridge and Somerville town officials assigned to the LGBTQ community to discern how these groups differ from the city's human rights commissions.

2. February Minutes:

G. Horowitz made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. D. Davidoff seconded the motion. Eight were in favor, four abstained and the motion carried.

3. Correspondence Received:

C. Carney reported that she received an e-mail from a college intern interested in volunteering for the Commission. The intern was invited to the meeting but did not attend. R. Varghese and C. Carney reported that they received e-mails from the Massachusetts Association of Human Rights Commissions. C. Carney stated that she would forward these e-mails to all Commissioners going forward.

4. Subcommittee Reports:

20th Anniversary/10 Year Anniversary of Marriage Equality/Bill Shea Every Day Hero Award: S. Baron reported that the subcommittee met and felt that the Commission is trying to do too much in one event and would prefer to focus on the 10th anniversary of marriage equality. M. Briggett moved to focus the event on the 10th anniversary of marriage equality. M. Goldsipe seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried. S. Davison stated that David Wilson, an original plaintiff in the Goodridge case with a slew of credentials agreed to speak at the event. Potential fee for David Wilson was not yet discussed. David Wilson would speak about the legal landscape 10 years ago, at present day and his predictions for the future, all while weaving his personal narrative throughout. Additionally, S. Baron is working on identifying a local couple to speak at the event. The Everyday Hero Award will not be given out this year. S. Davison suggested creating a press release to publicize the event and D. Davidoff agreed to write the press release. C. Carney will e-mail D. Davidoff a list of the places the press release should be published. The Arlington Advocate will need the press release by April 17th for April 24th publication.

AHRC Historical Timeline Update: C. Carney reported that N. Minton is not yet at a draft stage for the timeline and is missing

ARHC Historical Timeline Updates: C. Carney reported that N. Minton is not yet at a draft stage for the timeline and is missing a couple years of minutes. She stated that N. Minton is looking for help with this project.

School Liaison Program Updates: S. Grossman stated that she e-mailed Kathy Bodie regarding the two principals that have yet to respond to their assigned liaisons. S. Grossman asked that Commissioners keep her updated regarding their interactions and progress with their assigned schools.

5. Meeting with METCO:

S. Davison and M. Goldsipe met with METCO and listened to the general problems that are currently going on. The Commissioners also explained the role of the Human Rights Commission. A. Watson brought attention to the wide spread misunderstanding of the METCO program and the need to provide education regarding METCO goals. S. Davison stated that the Arlington Advocate recently published an article titled *Boston Should Pay More METCO Costs*. The article indicated that Arlington needs to decide if the town should stay in such an expensive program. S. Davison wrote a letter to the editor in response to the article. The Commission decided to write a letter to the editor as well. S. Baron and M. Goldsipe will work together on drafting the letter. C. Carney will e-mail the editor and let her know the letter is coming. M. Goldsipe will e-mail the letter to Commissioners once it is completed.

6. Brochure Update:

M. Goldsipe completed a draft of the new brochure. Additional edits to the brochure were discussed and M. Goldsipe will make the changes and e-mail an updated copy to Commissioners. The possibility of having a place to walk in and give a complaint was discussed. M. Goldsipe will e-mail printing questions to R. Varghese and he will coordinate with Shawsheen Technical High School as a possible printer for the brochures.

7. Protected Class List: M. Goldsipe proposed adding gender identity and gender expression to the Commission list of protected classes. Commissioners decided to add this language to the Commission goal but cannot change the language of the official bylaws. M. Goldsipe will invite a MassEquality to a future meeting to continue the discussion regarding protected classes.

8. Administrative items:

Review Rapid Response List & Mailing/Contact List: C. Carney reported that intern Jill Maines was unable to attend the meeting but is working on the rapid response list. When completed, J. Maines will e-mail the list to K. Bruneau and C. Carney.

Update Town Website to Reflect Current Commissioners: All Commissioners are not currently listed on the town website. C. Carney will e-mail Joan Roman to have the website updated.

9. Incidents & Complaints:

Two incidences were received from the Arlington Police Department. Incident # 14005631/1 titled Hate Crime was discussed. Flyers were removed from a plastic case at Robbins Library and "Go to Hell Faggots" was written on the back of the flyers. No specific victim or offender were identified but Andrea Nicolay, Assistant Director expressed interest in filing a formal complaint. C. Carney appointed herself, M. Briggett and S. Grossman to meet with Andrea Nicolay if she decides to file a complaint formally. Incident # 14005007/1 titled Hate Incident was also discussed. A swastika was mailed to Bukiet Avrohom at the Jewish Center for Life. C. Carney will reach out to him.

10. Book Donation in Honor of Nancy Sweeney:

C. Carney reported that she brought the books to the meeting and wants to present them to the library. S. Baron will draft a short write up of who Bill Shea and Nancy Sweeney were.

11. Review 2001 Strategic Plan:

C. Carney tabled this agenda item.

12. Community Updates/Happenings:

C. Carney reported that she met with the town counselor and he is invited to a future meeting. C. Carney passed out copies of the frequently asked questions and asked all to review for the next meeting for discussion. M. Briggett stated that two *Miss Representation* flyers were created. Each flyer is geared for different age groups. The film is appropriate for children ages 13 and above if accompanied by an adult. C. Carney will forward the flyers and movie trailer to Commissioners.

M. Briggett made a motion to adjourn at 10:05pm. G. Horowitz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Submitted by:
Kelly Bruneau
Administrative Assistant